



SAFETY ALERT BULLETIN



On Friday, September 5, 2003, at approximately 7:45a.m., a coal truck driver working for an independent contractor at a coal preparation plant associated with a large underground coal mine in Buchanan County Va., was injured while dumping his 4th load of clean coal at the preparation plant clean coal stockpile. The truck bed lift jack bracket separated from the truck bed allowing the truck bed, loaded with approximately 15 tons of clean coal, to drop suddenly. The impact dislodged an am-fm radio from the overhead console which struck the victim in the right side of his face. At the same time, the victim was thrown from the truck cab on to the ground. The injured truck driver was found lying unconscious on the ground beside the truck by the dozer operator. The bulldozer operator radioed the preparation plant foreman and requested medical assistance. When the emergency medical technician arrived, the injured truck driver was conscious and alert. The injured person was transported to Clinch Valley Medical Center where he was treated and released the same day. This incident could very well have resulted in more serious injuries.

The injured truck driver, 35 years old, has worked for the present contractor for 13 years.

Safety Key Points

- Always conduct a thorough pre-operational check.
- Keep the operators compartment clean and orderly, with all materials secured from movement.
- Periodically check for deteriorated or deformed metal, worn parts and loose or missing components, especially in areas that are not easily accessible.
- Always wear seat belts when operating mobile equipment.